

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /094 W
-----094748 131019Z /10

R 130624Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, NO, IS
SUBJECT: DYAN VISIT TO OSLO, MAY 9-10

REF: OSLO 2205

1. SUMMARY: HISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO OSLO MAY 8-10. DAYAN MET WITH HIGH GON OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PM ODVAR NORDLI AND FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND, WHOM DAYAN BRIEFED IN SOME DETAIL ON THE BEGIN PEACE PROPOSALS. MFA SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY FOUND DAYAN RATHER INFLEXIBLE ON MOST POINTS IN THE BEGIN PLAN. SOUTH LEBANON WAS NOT DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH THE MFA (DUE TO LACK OF TIME), BUT DAYAN MADE CLEAR THAT
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ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WAS CONTINGENT ON UNIFIL'S SUCCESS IN PREVENTING RETURN OF PLO TO THEIR BASES IN THE AREA. IN MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS, AND IN REMARKS AT CEREMONIES COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, DAYAN SPOKE VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE CAUSE OF ISRAEL.
END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO BJORN UTHEIM, DIRECTOR OF MFA'S UN OFFICE, DAYAN DID MOST OF THE TALKING AT THE MEETINGS AT THE MFA, EXPOUNDING AT SOME LENGTH ON THE BEGIN PROPOSALS FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THE ISREALI FORMIN REPEATED THE POSITION THAT THE SUPPORT OF EGYPT FOR A SOLUTION IN THE SINAI AND GAZA WAS CRUCIAL TO GETTING AN EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE WEST BANK, AND HE HOPED THAT THE US WOULD APPLY APPROPRIATE PRESSURES TO EGYPT TO REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL. DAYAN DID NOT SOLICIT NORWEGIAN HELP IN EFFECTING THIS, BUT THE FORMIN, ACCORDING TO UTHEIM, GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT DAYAN AT LEAST HOPED THE NORWEGIANS WOULD MAKE THE AMERICANS AWARE THAT THE MATTER HAD COME UP IN THEIR TALKS. UTHEIM SAID FORMIN FRYDENLUND WAS TOTALLY NONCOMMITTAL ON THE QUESTION. FRYDENLUND DID, HOWEVER, ASK DAYAN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE IF SUCH SHOULD BE APPROVED IN A REFERENDUM AT THE END OF THE FIVE-YEAR INTERIM PERIOD OF MILITARY RULE. DAYAN IS REPORTED BY UTHEIM TO HAVE REPLIED THAT WHILE THE OPTION OF ISRAELI OR PERHAPS JORDANIAN NATIONALITY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO THE PALESTINIANS, AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

3. THE SOUTH LEBANON DISCUSSION AT THE MFA WAS CUT SHORT BECAUSE SO MUCH TIME HAD BEEN SPENT ON THE BEGIN PROPOSALS. DAYAN DID MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AREA WAS DEPENDENT ON THE SUCCESS OF UNIFIL IN PREVENTING THE PLO FROM RE-ENTRY INTO SOUTH LEBANON. ISRAEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD HAVE TO JUDGE FOR ITSELF HOW WELL UNIFIL CARRIED OUT THE TASK, DAYAN ADDED.

4. THE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER NORDLI CONSISTED OF A RATHER POLITE EXCHANGE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE WEST BANK AND SOUTH LEBANON BY DAYAN AND THE PRIME MINISTER, ACCORDING TO UTHEIM. THE BRIEFNESS OF THE MEETING DID NOT ALLOW FOR ANY SORT OF EXCHANGE.

5. IN INTERVIEWS WITH PRESS AND TV, AND AT SEVERAL PUBLIC MEETINGS COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL WHERE HE APPEARED, DAYAN TOOK A STRIKINGLY HARD LINE. ON SOUTH LEBANON, FOR EXAMPLE, HE TOLD THE PRESS THAT IF PLO ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL SHOULD CONTINUE IN SPITE OF THE UNIFIL PRESENCE, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO STRIKE BACK. A SITUATION WHERE THE PLO OPERATED UNDER THE COVER OF UN PRESENCE WOULD REPRESENT A SERIOUS BREACH OF UN CREDIBILITY, DAYAN ADDED. ON THE WEST BANK, DAYAN TOLD

REPORTERS THAT PERMITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO OFFERING THE PLO A CHANCE TO LIQUIDATE ISRAEL.

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6. AT THE STATE OF ISRAEL ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES AT THE OSLO SYNAGOGUE AND AT A PUBLIC RALLY OF THE "LET ISRAEL LIVE" MOVEMENT, DAYAN MADE AN EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO JEWISH PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO WORK TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL. ISRAEL CANNOT DEPEND ON THE US OR THE UN TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL, DAYAN ADDED, BUT IT MUST SECURE PEACE AND SECURITY BY ITS OWN EFFORTS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE DAYAN GAVE RATHER LONG EXPOSES OF THE ISRAELI POSITIONS ON THE BEGIN PROPOSALS AND SOUTH LEBANON TO OFFICIALS HERE, HE DID NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM THE NORWEGIANS. THE NORWEGIANS FOR THEIR PART DID NOT HAVE MUCH TO OFFER DAYAN. THE FACT THAT THE VISIT OCCURRED IS PROBABLY ITS GREATEST VALUE TO ISRAEL.
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DAYAN'S CHARISMA, WORKED UPON GON LEADERS, MAY HAVE MADE THE
EFFORT WORTHWHILE FOR THE ISRAELIS. DAYAN'S HARD LINE IN
HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE PUT A CHINK IN THE
RATHER FORMIDABLE STORE OF GOOD WILL THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE
ENJOYED OVER MANY YEARS AMONG LARGE NUMBERS OF NORWEGIANS. HIS
SOMETIMES STRIDENT RESPONSES TO MEDIA AND OTHER QUESTIONERS
RAISED EYEBROWS AMONG SOME GON OPINION LEADERS WHO FEEL
THAT DAYAN, SPEAKING, AS HE WAS, TO A FRIENDLY PUBLIC, WOULD
HAVE PROFITED MORE FROM A LOW-KEY APPROACH.
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